Government's Fertilizers Policy

1172. SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is Government's Fertilizer Policy for the future and

(b) the details of additional capacity installed in this regard during 1980 to 1990- year-wise - thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The Government's objective for future is to achieve self-sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilizers and to maximise the exploration/ production of indigenous rock phosphate and potash. To bridge the gap between production and demand phosphatic fertilizers will have to be imported due to domestic raw material constraints. Till potash reserves are found within the country the entire quantity of potassic fertilizers will have to be important as there are no known sources of potash in the county.

(b) The details of addditional capacity installed during the years 1980-81 to 1990-91, in terms of nutrients are given below :—

(000 MT)

Year	'N'	'P'
1	2	3
1980-81 . .	684	52
1981-82 . .	148	133
1982-83 . .	425	10
1983-84 . .	27	70
1984-85 . .	24	..
1985-86 . .	1394	261
1986-87 . .	248	533
1987-88 . .	220	193
1988-89 . .	1115	387
1989-90 . .	..	100
1990-91 . .	68	33

Import of fertilizers

1173. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total import of fertilizers in the country;

(b) what is the domestic need in total terms;

(c) what is the reason for the steep hike in fertilizer prices;

(d) whether there is any proposal to scale down the price of fertilizers to lesson the difficulties of farmers;

(e) whether the export of fertilizer has gone up from 1989-90 statistics; and

(f) if not, what is the reason ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) During the current year a total of 44·38 lakh tonnes of fertilizers have been imported till Feb. 1992.

(b) The estimated consumption of fertilizers in the country during the current year in terms of nutrients is 134·87 lakh tonnes.